

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Emergency Condition Notification Form

Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2011

Time: 8:00 AM (MDT)

Facility Affected: Yellowtail Dam **River(s) Affected:** Bighorn River

Organizations Receiving this Notification:

Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services
Crow Tribe
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Montana Department of Transportation
National Park Service at Ft. Smith
National Weather Service Forecaster – Billings
Montana State Disaster & Emergency Services – District V, Billings
Montana State Disaster & Emergency Services – Helena
US Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha, Nebraska
Bureau of Reclamation - Great Plains Regional Office
Treasure County Dispatch 24-hr Warning Point
Rosebud County Dispatch 24-hr Warning Point
Custer County Dispatch 24-hr Warning Point

1. Condition Description

Current Conditions – Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn River:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3631.49 feet
- Reservoir Release: 15,000 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 14,800 cfs
- Feet to Fill (Top of Joint-Use): 8.51 feet

No change in releases from Yellowtail Dam to the Bighorn River is scheduled today.

In accordance with the Emergency Action Plan for Yellowtail Dam, releases in excess of 14,000 cfs place Yellowtail Dam into a **Response Level 2** condition, requiring notifications to downstream and affected agencies. **This condition is only a result of releases from Yellowtail Dam exceeding 14,000 cfs. There are no dam safety related conditions or concerns with Yellowtail or Yellowtail Afterbay Dams.**

NOTE: Additional increases in releases from Yellowtail Dam are expected. Reclamation's revised runoff forecast currently projects releases from Yellowtail Dam may need to exceed an average of 15,000 cfs on a daily basis throughout at least the month of June in order to pass our projected inflows into Bighorn Reservoir. Actual daily releases may exceed 15,000 cfs for periods during this time frame.

2. Potential River Levels and Times of Arrival

The following provides the approximate travel times and river stage rises from Yellowtail Dam to reach key locations along the Bighorn River:

<u>Bighorn River Location</u>	<u>Approximate Travel Time</u>	<u>Approximate River Stage Increase</u>
Two Leggins Bridge	7-9 hours	N/A
Hardin	10-12 hours	N/A
Confluence with the Yellowstone River	24 hours	N/A

3. Actions Taken by Reclamation

Reclamation continues to operate in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Manual (Manual) for Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Lake. Additionally, Reclamation has and will continue to coordinate very closely with the Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services, Crow Tribe, Corp of Engineers, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Montana Department of Transportation regarding our daily operations.

In accordance with the Manual, releases will be managed, to the extent possible, to prevent the following flows from being exceeded:

20,000 cfs at St. Xavier (Gauging Station at Afterbay Dam)
25,000 cfs at Bighorn (confluence with Yellowstone River)

4. Actions Expected of Downstream Agencies

Be advised that releases above 14,000 cfs will continue for the next several weeks. Reclamation is requesting that Big Horn County DES notify landowners living along the Bighorn River below Yellowtail Dam who occupy low lying areas that they are subject to potential flooding. Additionally, Reclamation is requesting that Bighorn County DES notify these affected property owners of the following:

- Releases above 14,000 cfs will continue at least for the next several weeks.
- Reclamation's ability to respond to localized storm events downstream of Yellowtail Dam and provide relief by reducing releases from the dam is unlikely.
- Strongly encourage affected property owners to take all appropriate precautions, including sandbagging or other measures, to protect their possessions and property.

5. For Additional Information

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6. Media Inquiries:

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